



# WESTPORT COMMUNITY SURVEY

April 2007

& PUBLIC POLICY

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|-------------|-------------|
| Researcher: | Date:       |
| Time start: | CB:         |
| Time end:   | Supervisor: |

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Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am a research assistant at The Center for Research and Public Policy. We're talking to residents on behalf of the Town of Westport today about quality of life, open space, residential and commercial development and municipal facilities. Your responses to this survey are strictly confidential.

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## Screener

A. Are you one of the heads of household and at least eighteen years of age?

- 01 Yes (Continue)
- 02 No (Ask for qualified respondent)
- 03 DK/Unsure (Thank and terminate)

## General

1. Why did you choose to live in Westport? (RESEARCHERS: Accept multiple responses)

- 01 Location (close to work/close to highways)
- 02 Community reputation
- 03 Community amenities (education system/recreational facilities)
- 04 Community appearance (town character/community feeling)
- 05 Neighborhood (nice neighborhood)
- 06 Housing (nice house/affordable)
- 07 Birthplace
- 08 Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- 09 DK/Unsure

2. Would you say your overall quality of life in Westport is...

- 01 Very good;
- 02 Good;
- 03 Poor; or
- 04 Very poor
- 05 DK/Unsure

3. Please tell me the issues or problems, in the Town of Westport, you are most concerned about. (RESEARCHERS: Probe "Is there anything else?")

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4. Please tell me the suggestions you would offer to improve the quality of life in Westport. (RESEARCHERS: Probe "Is there anything else?")

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### **Natural Resources and Open Space**

Now, a few statements about protection of natural resources and open space in Westport. For each, please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree.

| Statements  | StrA | SA | SD | StrD | DK |
|---|------|----|----|------|----|
| 5. The Town is doing a good job protecting natural resources                | 01   | 02 | 03 | 04   | 05 |
| 6. The Town is doing a good job preserving open space                       | 01   | 02 | 03 | 04   | 05 |
| 7. The Town should do more to preserve open space along Long Island Sound   | 01   | 02 | 03 | 04   | 05 |
| 8. The Town should do more to preserve open space along the Saugatuck River | 01   | 02 | 03 | 04   | 05 |

### **Residential Development**

Please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statements related to residential development.

| Statements   | StrA | SA | SD | StrD | DK |
|--|------|----|----|------|----|
| 9. Westport needs to do more to limit the size of residential houses | 01   | 02 | 03 | 04   | 05 |
| 10. Westport needs a choice of housing types                         | 01   | 02 | 03 | 04   | 05 |

For each of the following types of housing, please tell me if you feel there are too many, too few, or about the right amount in Westport today.

| Housing Types                     | Too Many | Too Few | Right Amount | DK |
|-----------------------------------|----------|---------|--------------|----|
| 11. Single-family homes           | 01       | 02      | 03           | 04 |
| 12. Condominiums                  | 01       | 02      | 03           | 04 |
| 13. Rental apartments             | 01       | 02      | 03           | 04 |
| 14. Housing for first-time buyers | 01       | 02      | 03           | 04 |
| 15. Housing for elderly persons   | 01       | 02      | 03           | 04 |
| 16. Moderate income housing       | 01       | 02      | 03           | 04 |

Now, please think about potential new apartments, condos and other multi-family housing. Please tell me if you would strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose new housing -- other than single-family homes -- at the following locations.

| New Housing                      | StrS | SS | SO | StrO | DK |
|----------------------------------|------|----|----|------|----|
| 17. In and near Downtown         | 01   | 02 | 03 | 04   | 05 |
| 18. In and near Saugatuck Center | 01   | 02 | 03 | 04   | 05 |
| 19. Along the Post Road          | 01   | 02 | 03 | 04   | 05 |
| 20. Along Riverside Avenue       | 01   | 02 | 03 | 04   | 05 |

### **Business Development**

Please tell me if Westport has too many, too few, or about the right amount of the following local business opportunities today.

| Businesses                       | Too Many | Too Few | Right Amount | DK |
|----------------------------------|----------|---------|--------------|----|
| 21. Locally owned retail stores  | 01       | 02      | 03           | 04 |
| 22. National retail chain stores | 01       | 02      | 03           | 04 |
| 23. Quick service restaurants    | 01       | 02      | 03           | 04 |
| 24. Family restaurants           | 01       | 02      | 03           | 04 |
| 25. Fine dining restaurants      | 01       | 02      | 03           | 04 |

Please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statements related to business development.

| Statements   | StrA | SA | SD | StrD | DK |
|--|------|----|----|------|----|
| 26 <b>Downtown</b> Westport needs more residential homes                 | 01   | 02 | 03 | 04   | 05 |
| 27. <b>Downtown</b> Westport needs more arts/cultural attractions        | 01   | 02 | 03 | 04   | 05 |
| 28. <b>Downtown</b> Westport needs more restaurants                      | 01   | 02 | 03 | 04   | 05 |
| 29. Main Street would benefit from wider sidewalks <b>downtown</b>       | 01   | 02 | 03 | 04   | 05 |
| 30. The Town should provide for more parking in the <b>downtown</b> area | 01   | 02 | 03 | 04   | 05 |
| 31. Downtown Westport needs recreational activities/a community center   | 01   | 02 | 03 | 04   | 05 |
| 32. The Town should do more to enhance the appearance of the Post Road   | 01   | 02 | 03 | 04   | 05 |

Please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with instituting the following as ways to finance new additional parking in downtown Westport.

| Additional Parking                     | StrA | SA | SD | StrD | DK |
|--|------|----|----|------|----|
| 33. Assessing merchants and businesses | 01   | 02 | 03 | 04   | 05 |
| 34. Add metered parking                | 01   | 02 | 03 | 04   | 05 |
| 35. Increase Westport property tax     | 01   | 02 | 03 | 04   | 05 |

### Community Facilities

36. Please tell me of new or enhanced recreation, school, public safety, facilities or other items you would like to see Westport focusing on.

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## Transportation

Please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statements related to vehicular transportation.

| Transportation   | StrA | SA | SD | StrD | DK |
|--|------|----|----|------|----|
| 37. We need more left turn lanes along Route 1                         | 01   | 02 | 03 | 04   | 05 |
| 38. More parking is needed at the train stations                       | 01   | 02 | 03 | 04   | 05 |
| 39. We should build a parking garage at the train station in Saugatuck | 01   | 02 | 03 | 04   | 05 |

40. Please identify for us, any particular roadway “trouble spot” that comes to mind.  
(RESEARCHERS: Probe “Is there any other?”)

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Please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statements.

| Statements   | StrA | SA | SD | StrD | DK |
|--|------|----|----|------|----|
| 41. Westport needs more sidewalks along Route 1                            | 01   | 02 | 03 | 04   | 05 |
| 42. Westport needs more sidewalks in residential neighborhoods             | 01   | 02 | 03 | 04   | 05 |
| 43. Westport needs more facilities and trails for bicycles                 | 01   | 02 | 03 | 04   | 05 |
| 44. Westport should provide for more shelters and benches along bus routes | 01   | 02 | 03 | 04   | 05 |

45. How aware would you say you are of the local bus service to the train station?

- 01 Very aware
- 02 Somewhat aware
- 03 Somewhat unaware
- 04 Not at all aware
- 05 DK/Unsure

46. Please tell me how often you use the bus to train service? Would you say...

- 01 Often (**Go to Q 49**)
- 02 Sometimes (**Continue**)
- 03 Seldom (**Continue**)
- 04 Never (**Continue**)
- 05 DK/Unsure (**Continue**)

47. Please tell me why you don't use the bus to train service or use it more frequently?

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48. How likely would you be to use the service more often if it was more convenient?

Would you say...

- 01 Very likely
- 02 Somewhat likely
- 03 Somewhat unlikely
- 04 Not at all likely
- 05 DK/Unsure

### **Utilities**

Please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statements.

| Statements  | StrA | SA | SD | StrD | DK |
|---|------|----|----|------|----|
| 49. Streets and sidewalks are well maintained   | 01   | 02 | 03 | 04   | 05 |
| 50. The Town needs to do more about drainage  | 01   | 02 | 03 | 04   | 05 |
| 51. Westport should adopt a septic management ordinance to ensure that septic systems are properly maintained | 01   | 02 | 03 | 04   | 05 |

### **Demographics**

52. Finally just for classification purposes, which of the following best describes where you live in Town...

- 01 Between the railroad tracks and Long Island Sound
- 02 Between the railroad tracks and Route 1
- 03 Between Route 1 and the Merritt Parkway
- 04 North of the Merritt Parkway
- 05 DK/Unsure
- 06 RF

53. Do you own or rent your home?

- 01 Own
- 02 Rent
- 03 DK/Unsure
- 04 RF

54. How many years have you lived in Westport?

- 01 \_\_\_\_\_ Years
- 77 DK/Unsure
- 99 RF

55. Please tell me your age?

- 01 Less than 35
- 02 35 to 44
- 03 45 to 54
- 04 55 to 64
- 05 65 to 74
- 06 75 or older
- 07 DK/Unsure
- 08 RF

56. What is the total yearly income before taxes of all members of your family now living at home?

- 01 Less than \$100,000
- 02 \$100,000 to less than \$200,000
- 03 \$200,000 to less than \$300,000
- 04 \$300,000 to less than \$400,000
- 05 \$400,000 to less than \$500,000
- 06 More than \$500,000
- 07 DK/Unsure
- 08 RF

57. Are you currently...

- 01 Employed full-time for wages
- 02 Employed part-time for wages
- 03 Self-employed
- 04 Out of work for more than 1 year
- 05 Out of work for less than 1 year
- 06 Full-time homemaker
- 07 Full-time student
- 08 Retired
- 09 Unable to work
- 10 Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- 11 DK/Unsure
- 12 RF

58. Please tell me any other comments, suggestions, or ideas you have for the Town?

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Thank you very much for your time and participation.

59. Gender (by observation).

- 01      Male
- 02      Female